



Parish of St Peter & The Good Shepherd Bearsted & Harrietsham

A Member of Bearsted Area Churches Together



Newsletter

St Peter's Church, Button Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, ME15 8NJ

Church of The Good Shepherd, Rectory Lane (off East Street), Harrietsham, ME17 1HS

Parish Priest: Father Geoffrey Pointer: 01622 736100, email: parishpriest@catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Reverend Cyril Durbin: 01622 630055

St Peter's Hall Bookings: 07919 084730

Catholic Schools in our local area:

St Francis Primary, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB (Telephone: 771540)

The Holy Family Primary, Bicknor Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9PS (Telephone: 756778)

St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 0JP (Telephone: 754551)

Parish Website and YouTube:
www.catholic-bearsted.org.uk

Year B TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY ✕ ORDINARY TIME 23rd September 2018

FAITH IN FOCUS: Trying to be a Christian can sometimes be a confusing business. We can do our best to love God, to follow Christ and to practise our religion, but there can be niggling doubts about whether we are always doing the right thing. Two small children summed it up beautifully. When one took the larger slice of cake from the plate, the other said that he would have left the larger and taken the smaller piece out of good manners. "That's OK then," said the first child, "because I've got it anyway." How do you draw the line between being Christian and being walked over? Should there be a limit to how "Christian" you should try and be? Does it mean that because you always put others first, you should end up with nothing? Are Christianity and ambition compatible?



You wouldn't be the first person to wonder about these sort of questions. The Book of Wisdom represents the pinnacle of practical thought in the Old Testament, and right at the start it tackles these issues. Let's test believers, it says, to find out what will happen to them. Let's play all kinds of tricks on them, and see if God takes care of them. Of course, this is exactly what was going to happen to Jesus.

But how do we react to this situation? It can often seem that ordinary good people lose out to those who are unscrupulous. Sometimes it looks as if crime does pay. The rich get richer on the backs of the poor and the defenceless. Everything seems tilted so that the most ruthless get to the top whilst the meek carry all the burdens. Shouldn't we just join in?

Christians don't have to sit back and let themselves be exploited. But they do have to act upon values which the street-wise consider to be foolish. Whilst ensuring that everyone receives what is rightfully theirs, the Christian is called to a set of values which turn conventional wisdom on its head: justice through love. Christians have ambition but not cut-throat ambition, desires but not greed, aspirations but not jealousy. St James reminds us that if we are not at peace inwardly with ourselves, then we're ready to get what we want at any cost.

And when Jesus praises the virtues of the little child, he's not inviting us to remain childish but childlike. Maybe he's saying that as adults we have to have the best qualities of the child. A tiny child does not know how to sin, but an adult Christian chooses not to sin. A tiny child is harmless through innocence, but an adult Christian chooses not to go on the attack through virtue. Christian wisdom means not so much that we are incapable of getting one over on everyone else, but rather that we are unwilling to do so.
(Author unknown)

PARISH PILGRIMAGE We are hoping to get a report of the pilgrimage out soon. Meanwhile, would pilgrims who have some good photos of the event, please send them, full size, to David Combes at webmaster@catholic-bearsted.org.uk so that a selection can be made and added to our gallery (subject to space).

THIS SUNDAY The first of four National Mass Counts is to be taken. **Collectors, please note.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS 2019 Preparations begin in **October**. Application forms are now available from Fr Geoffrey or Deacon Cyril; they should be returned by **7th October**. Parents with children who are baptized and in school Year 3 or above are invited to apply; they must live in the parish. If they were not baptized here we need a copy of their baptismal certificate. There will be a meeting for parents on **Monday 8th October** at St Peter's, after the evening Mass.

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 23rd SEPTEMBER 2018
(Masses and Devotions marked '(H)' are at Harrietsham)

✕ **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

Sun 23rd <i>Day of Prayer for the Harvest</i>	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Pro Populo
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: John Welchman RIP
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Alex Smith RIP
Mon 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham	7.00pm	✕ Mass
Tue 25th	Feria (<i>St Finbarr of Cork</i>)	10.00am	✕ Mass: Finn Egan RIP
Wed 26th	Feria	(H) 10.00am	✕ Mass: H Charles Keeley RIP (FM)
Thu 27th	St Vincent de Paul	7.00am	✕ Mass
Fri 28th	Feria	10.00am	✕ Mass
Sat 29th	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	<i>5-5.30pm</i>	<i>Confessions</i>

✕ **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)** ✕

Sun 30th	Saturday	6.00pm	✕ Vigil Mass: Palmira and Giuseppe Nucilli RIP
	Sunday	(H) 8.45am	✕ Mass: Pro Populo
		10.30am	✕ Mass: Private Intention

COMING UP:

- **CAFOD Family Fast Day:** Friday **5th October**. *Envelops now available.*
- **Ministry to the bereaved:** Saturday **6th October** at Tonbridge; *see notice board.*
- **Deanery Confirmations:** Sunday **14th October** at St Francis' with the Archbishop.
- **Readers' Day:** Saturday **20th October** at St Peter's.

PLEASE PRAY...

- **With the Holy Father for September – Young people in Africa:** *that young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.*
- **For all the sick and for all who are unwell at home or in our care homes,** *for those who have died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now (see below); for all our relatives and friends, especially Margaret Ranner; and for the intentions on the notice board.*
- **For the victims of the ferry disaster on Lake Victoria, Tanzania, East Africa.**
- **Anniversaries this week (St Peter's Chapel memorial):** ✕ *Xavier Schreiber, Lilian Colson, George Colson, Giuseppe Nucilli, Timothy O' Keefe, Kathleen Puttock, Francis Garrett, Harry Keeley, Rosemary Rumble, Iris Warner and Palmira Nucilli.* ✕

Thank you for your offerings last week to help run our parish: **£352.01** (Gift Aided, **£158.00**; in addition, weekly standing orders paid direct into our bank, amount to **£158.00**). ♦ Last Sunday's retiring collection to fund the bishops' national work of evangelization amounted to **£128.88**.

ROSARY CRUSADE The thirty-fourth annual Rosary Crusade of Reparation is on Saturday **13th October**. Assembling outside Westminster Cathedral by 1.45pm, the procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fátima will make its way to Brompton Oratory, praying the rosary en-route. For more details, see the poster on the noticeboard.

A DAY WITH MARY For those who would like to know more about the message given in Fátima over 100 years ago, there is a Day With Mary at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 20th October** including Mass, exposition, processions, sermons and meditations. For full details, see poster on the parish noticeboard.

CCF EVENTS This term, the Centre for Catholic Formation is offering courses aimed at catechists, those involved in faith formation, members of pastoral councils and evangelization teams and the clergy. For full details including dates and locations, see the *On Offer* guide, or visit www.ccftootingbec.org.uk.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT The organizations involved in caring for the homeless in Maidstone are appealing for donations of food in preparation for the onset of the colder weather. Tinned fruits, vegetables, long-life foods, pasta and preserves are in great demand. If you're able to help, a full list of 'most wanted' items is now available on the noticeboard.

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organization which helps single Catholics meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information, visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk.